GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:144
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
BAN ON ADVERTISEMENT OF CIGARETTES
P.R. KHUTE;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ban on advertisement of cigarettes is not effective;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to enforce it effectively;

(c) whether, despite the ban on smoking in public places, very few people get prosecuted in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to strictly enforce the ban?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 144 FOR 7.3.2001

(a)to(d): There is no central law yet in force that prohibits advertisement of cigarettes. A comprehensive legislation on discouraging use of tobacco, which includes provisions for banning advertisement of tobacco products, is proposed to be introduced shortly in the Parliament. However, the Delhi Prohibition of Smoking and Non-smoker Health Protection Act, 1996, inter alia, prohibits advertisement in any place or public service vehicle which may promote smoking or the sale of cigarettes and beedies etc.

As regards the ban on smoking in public places in Delhi, it is reported by the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi that during the year 2000, 1404 raids were conducted in public places and public conveyances to check smoking resulting in fines being imposed in 294 cases. In the year 2001, 604 checks have been conducted in public places and conveyances and 238 people have been fined. The Health Department is deploying more teams for the enforcement work. Regular meetings at the level of Minister of Health, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi are being held with the representatives of Delhi Police and other concerned agencies to review the progress made towards achieving the objective.